

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing, and re-examination and reconsideration of the subject application, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. § 1.112, in view of the amendments above and the remarks which follow, are respectfully requested.

By the above amendments, claims 1 and 7 have been amended. In addition, new claims 9 and 10 have been added. Thus, upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-10 will be pending in the application.

In the Official Action, claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for being indefinite. In response, Applicants have amended the claim to correct the unit value of "1000". Accordingly, the rejection is now moot and should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Anderson* (U.S. Patent No. 5,471,001). For the reasons set forth below, this rejection should be withdrawn.

The present invention, as defined by amended claim 1, relates to a process for the manufacture of adipic acid crystals from adipic acid obtained by crystallization. The process comprises the steps of dispersing the adipic acid crystals collected on conclusion of crystallization in a liquid medium, stirring the liquid medium to smooth the surface of the crystals, and separating the crystals from the liquid medium.

Anderson discloses a process for crystallizing adipic acid using low intensity ultrasonic agitation.

Anderson does not disclose or suggest each of the features of the presently claimed invention. For example, *Anderson* does not disclose or suggest dispersing adipic acid crystals in a liquid medium. In contrast to the present invention, Example 3 of *Anderson*, which was referred to in the Official Action, discloses dissolving adipic acid in water. The present invention does not dissolve the crystals, but only disperse them.

Moreover, *Anderson* does not disclose or suggest stirring the liquid medium to smooth the surface of the liquid crystals.

Accordingly, for at least all of the reasons set forth above, *Anderson* does not disclose or suggest each of the features of the presently claimed invention. Therefore, there is no *prima facie* case of anticipation, and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) should be withdrawn.

Claims 9 and 10 have been added to highlight the differences between the present invention and *Anderson*. *Anderson* does not disclose or suggest forming a mixture of solid and liquid, and then setting that mixture in motion to smooth the surface of the adipic acid crystals. In contrast, *Anderson* teaches dissolving the adipic acid in water, which results in a homogeneous solution rather than a mixture of solid and liquid. Claim 10 further distinguishes from *Anderson* by its use of the transitional phrase “consisting essentially of”, which excludes material steps such as dissolving and recrystallizing from the claimed process.

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order, and such action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this Reply, or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED-UP VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIMS

1. **(Twice Amended)** Process for the manufacture of adipic acid crystals from adipic acid obtained by crystallization, comprising dispersing the adipic acid crystals collected on conclusion of crystallization in a liquid medium, stirring said liquid medium to smooth the surface of said crystals, and separating said crystals from said liquid medium.

7. **(Twice Amended)** Process according to Claim 1, wherein the crystals separated from the dispersion have a size of between 50 μm and 1000 μm .